(d) what is the anticipated saving in their consumption in these offices during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) It is a continuing process for the Government to initiate measures to curb in essenial and avoidable expenditure including that of petroleum products.

(c) and (d) The information is not centrally available nor is it practicable to collect the same, within reasonable time.

Special assistance to Karnataka and Rajasthan

949. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Agriculture had asked the Ministry of Finance to accord special treatment to the States of Karnataka and Rajasthan which had been affected continuously by drought for four consecutive years; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Setting up of hotels by large industrial houses

950. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large industrial houses falling under the provisions of MRTP have recently been allowed to set up hotels in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The hotel industry has been exempted by Government from the provisions of the MRTP Act, 1969 *vide* Notification No. S.O. 65(E) dated 21-2-1986 in exercise of the powers contained in Section 22A of the Act.

Fall in foreign exchange reserves

951. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange reserves have registered a decline during the last two months; if so, what is the extent of decline;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Govermnent to check the fall in foreign exchange reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold and SDRs) which stood at Rs. 6905 crores on 30th November, 1985 declined by Rs. 448 crores at the end of January, 1986. The detailed Balance of payments data, with details of the individual factors affecting movements in foreign exchange assets during this period are not yet available.

The level of reserves is continuously kept under review with a view to ensuring that the country's commitments with regard to debt service and requirement of goods and services are met.